

m/053/005

From: WAYNE HEDBERG (WHEDBERG)  
To: LBRAXTON  
Date: Monday, February 8, 1993 3:35 pm  
Subject: TMC - UTAH, GOLDSTRIKE MINE DISCHARGE

I RECEIVED A CALL FROM ROBERT WILSON, OF TENNECO'S GOLDSTRIKE MINE THIS AFTERNOON (@2:30PM) REGARDING ANOTHER DISCHARGE-RELATED PROBLEM. APPARENTLY THE MINE HAS RECEIVED ANOTHER INCH OF RAIN SO FAR TODAY. THIS ADDS TO THE 2/10THS INCH PRECIP RECEIVED OVER WEEKEND AND @1 INCH RECEIVED EARLIER LAST WEEK. BILL ALDER OF NATIONAL WEATHER FORECAST DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED THEM THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE 3 INCHES OF WATER OUT OF THIS LATEST STORM SYSTEM.

TENNECO HAS SPENT WEEKEND KILLING RESIDUAL HCN IN THEIR 500,000 GALLON FRESHWATER POND IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS STORM. AS OF @2:00PM TODAY, THEY COMMENCED A CONTROLLED DISCHARGE FROM THIS POND. THEY ARE "BATCH" KILLING THE HCN IN THEIR PRIMARY 800,000 GALLON PROCESS SOLUTION POND NOW. THEY WILL PUMP FROM IT INTO THE FRESHWATER POND AS IT'S LEVEL DROPS. FREQUENTLY BEING SPOT ANALYZED FOR HCN WITH ROUTINE SAMPLINGS AT ESTABLISHED MONITORING STATIONS DOWNSTREAM FOR MORE COMPLETE OFFSITE LABORATORY ANALYSIS (METALS, CYANIDE, ETC.).

THE NEW EMERGENCY POND BUILT ON TOP OF LEACH PAD 2 IS ALSO "BRIM-FULL". UTILIZING A PRESTRIPPING CARBON COLUMN CIRCUIT LOCATED BELOW PAD A TO PULL OFF METALS BEFORE DUMPING PAD DRAINDOWN SOLUTIONS INTO PRIMARY PROCESS POND. SEEMS TO BE WORKING QUITE EFFECTIVELY BASED UPON THEIR ONSITE ANALYSES.

THEY WILL CONTINUE TO "BATCH-KILL" THE PONDS AS THEY FILL UP PRIOR TO DISCHARGE. STATE DEQ-DWQ HAS BEEN NOTIFIED AS HAS THE BLM. OTHER REQUIRED REGULATORY CONTACTS BEING NOTIFIED ACCORDINGLY.

BOB DID INDICATE THAT THEY ADDED SOME NEW ORE TO A SECTION OF PAD 2 ABOUT A WEEK AGO AND APPLIED SOME NEW CYANIDE SOLUTION TO IT. THEY CEASED ADDING FRESH SOLUTION SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AND THEIR CYANIDE ANALYSES ARE SHOWING ONLY ABOUT 15 PPM COMING OFF PAD DRAINDOWN FROM THAT AREA. HE DOESN'T SEE ANY PROBLEM IN BEING ABLE TO KILL REMAINING HCN DOWN TO ACCEPTED LEVELS FOR DISCHARGE. HHE INDICATED THEY PROBABLY WON'T ADD ANY NEW CYANIDE SOLUTION UNTIL THEY GET THEIR WATER BALANCE BACK UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL.

I ASKED BOB TO PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED AS TO ANY CHANGES TO CONDITIONS AS THINGS PROGRESS AT MINE. HE COMMITTED TO DO SO. I'LL PLACE A HARD COPY OF THIS E-MAIL MEMO IN THE FILE TO DOCUMENT THIS OCCURANCE.

CC: HSHEPHERD, T GALLEGOS, JBURNS